

7-7104/A

17 December 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR

Colonel A. J. Goodpaster, CE, USA
Staff Secretary
The White House

This is to confirm my telephone call of today regarding your memorandum of 13 December regarding the Board of Consultants on foreign intelligence activities. I concur in the drafts of letters as submitted and suggest that they be delivered as soon as final decision is reached as to the personnel of the Board, and its members have been informally approached and have agreed to serve.

I shall submit shortly a draft of a proposed press release which might be given out when the texts of the letters are released.

SIGNED

ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

Enclosures

AWD/ji

Distribution

- O - Addressee
- 1 - ER w/copies of enclosures
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- 1 - IG
- 1 - Reading

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

Dear Mr. Dulles:

In the Hoover Commission Report submitted to Congress on June 29, 1955 relating to the intelligence activities of the Government, there is a recommendation that I appoint a "committee of experienced private citizens who shall have the responsibility to examine and report" on the work of the Government's foreign intelligence activities. I have noted your concurrence.

In accordance with this recommendation, I am constituting a Board of Consultants to review periodically the foreign intelligence activities of this Government, and to report their findings to me. While the review would concern itself with the sum total of these activities, it would be expected that major attention would be concentrated upon the work of the Central Intelligence Agency. A copy of the letter which I am sending to the prospective members of the Board is enclosed.

The work of this Board together with the regular reviews conducted by the appropriate Committees of the Congress will help to provide a method for assuring the Congress, the public, and the Executive Branch that this highly important and sensitive work is being efficiently conducted.

I know that you will afford the Board of Consultants the fullest cooperation in its work.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C.

COPY

The White House

Washington

Dear General Doolittle:

I am establishing a Board of Consultants on foreign intelligence activities of this Government for the purpose of providing me periodically with independent evaluations of the work of the organizations involved. This Board will consist of seven or eight outstanding citizens in whose high qualifications and discretion I have the fullest confidence. I would like to have you serve as one of the members of this Board.

It is my desire that this Board should meet not less often than once every six months to analyze carefully the work of the Government's foreign intelligence activities. These sessions might involve meetings over a period of several days. While the review by your group would be concerned with Government foreign intelligence activities in toto, I would expect particular detailed attention to be concentrated on the work of the Central Intelligence Agency and of those intelligence elements of key importance in other departments and agencies. I am particularly anxious to obtain your views as to the over-all progress that is being made, the quality of training and personnel, security, progress in research, effectiveness of specific projects and of the handling of funds, and general competence in carrying out assigned intelligence tasks.

It is my sincere conviction that prompt and accurate intelligence is essential to the policy making branches of the Government in the field of national security and foreign relations. By serving on the Board you can make a real contribution to the task of Government.

It is my hope that you and the others whom I am inviting to serve will be able to meet with me and Mr. Allen W. Dulles, Director of Central Intelligence, ⁱⁿ the near future, to determine the scope of your review of the work in the foreign intelligence field and to draw up terms of reference to permit you effectively to carry out your assigned task.

Sincerely,

Lt. General James H. Doolittle
50 West 50th Street
New York, New York